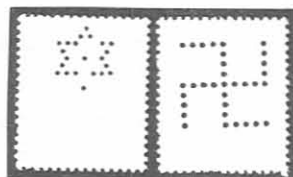


Have you ever found something just a bit unusual while going through a mixture of Perfins? Have you ever looked at the patterns in your collection and discovered that there is more than just an arrangement of letters, numerals, designs - that there is another possible facet that could be gained from Perfins philately?

I am going to show in this article that there are varieties in Perfins that are not apparent on first glance, but contribute to the whole story of Perfins collecting. I class these as added attractions, and they demonstrate what I believe to be the fact - that often there is more to Perfins philately than just patterns of holes in stamps. I by no means claim that this is a complete treatise on the subject, but hope that it will stimulate you to look even closer at your collection for Perfins odds 'n ends.



The first two Perfins shown are quite a story, evident both in their pattern contrast and in the fact that they are found on German stamps of the Germania issues (Scott #83, to be exact). The issue period of these stamps was 1905-1919, quite some time before the symbolism of the two patterns would have the meaning that we all know so well today.

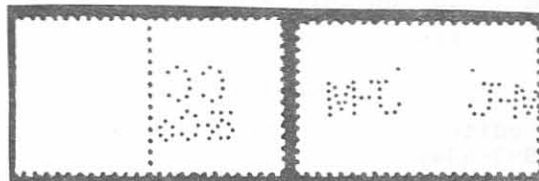


Remaining with German Perfins, the next illustration shows the face of the stamp, rather than the Perfin pattern (which is G.D), because of the face value of the stamp. This is one of the inflation issues of 1923 Germany, Scott #321, which is a 50,000,000 mark stamp revalued to 10 BILLION marks. There may be Perfins on higher face value stamps, but I have not seen one. If you consider what the rate of inflation was in Germany at that time, it seems hardly worth the time required to perforate such a stamp, as it would only have depreciated in value before it could have been used.

The next illustrated Perfin, a CL used by the Credit Lyonnais of France, I would assert is probably the smallest Perfin pattern. The size of the letters (height)

is but 2mm., and one would almost miss seeing it on a stamp.

In speaking of size, the next stamp shown, an official Perfin from the Australian state of Victoria, is my candidate for the smallest stamp with a Perfin. The stamp measures from perforation to perforation 22mm x 14mm. The Perfin OS measures 13mm x 9mm. Perforating such a small stamp had to be done very carefully, yet on nearly every copy I have seen, the Perfin is complete.



The next item is a pair of 11-cent U.S., Scott #569, the first of this type of variety that I have seen. The pattern, C93, used by Clark, Childs and Co. of New York, has been perforated into one stamp, but not into the adjoining stamp on the sheet. It would seem that the person perforating the sheet mis-fed it into the machine and the last row of stamps was not perforated.

The final variety shown is another oddity. Evidently the perforating machine head was not wide enough for the stamp (in this case, a special delivery, U. S., Scott #E12). So, to accommodate the sheet, the last stamp was folded over. The result is a mirror image of the Johns-Manville pattern, J96.3, on the same stamp. Where the stamp was folded to achieve this is still visible in this copy.

These few examples of the varieties that can be found in Perfins were acquired as the result of being observant in going through accumulations of Perfins. Nothing shown here is rare, or of any great research value, but they all are most interesting and, when displayed in an exhibit of Perfins, add much to the lore of Perfins philately.

In conclusion, I would like to invite you to go back and take another look at your collections and accumulations and see how many of these odds 'n ends you have. Perhaps a listing of such varieties can be compiled. I invite you to share your findings with me, and, if there are enough, a sequel to this article will be written.

My address is in the list of Club officers on page 8. Happy hunting.

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